

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NY
USCINCEUR
CINCUSAFE
CINCUSAREUR
CINCUSNAVEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCOSOUTH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR,PLOS, PBOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: AEGEAN NEGOTIATIONS

REF: ATHENS 1407

1. GREEK CHARGE COUNDOURIOTIS MET FEBRUARY 16, AT HIS RE-
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QUEST, WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARBOUR TO REVIEW
LONDON AEGEAN DISCUSSIONS AND NON-RUBBER FOOTWEAR PROBLEM
(SEPTEL). SPEAKING FROM INSTRUCTIONS, COUNDOURIOTIS
GENERALLY REVIEWED INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTTEL ON DEAD-
LOCK AT LONDON, BUT ADDED THAT, ALTHOUGH TZOUNIS WAS
NEITHER PREPARED FOR NOR AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT SUBSTANTIVE
NEGOTIATION, HE IN FACT DID HAVEAN UNOFFICIAL EXPLORATORY

DISCUSSION OF SUBSTANCE WITH BILGE IN AN EFFORT PREVENT COMPLETE COLLAPSE OF TALKS. THE GREEK POSITION, AS GIVEN BY TZOUNIS TO BILGE, WAS THAT:

A SEA BORDER ESTABLISHED BY TREATY EXTENDED BETWEEN A. SEA BORDERS ESTABLISHED BY TREATY EXTEND BETWEEN RHODES AND SAMOS AND BORDER (MEDIAN LINE) ESTABLISHED BY CUSTOM EXISTS BETWEEN SAMOS, CHIOS AND MITILINI AND THESE SHOULD BE RESPECTED.

B. THE QUESTION SHOULD BE OF DELIMITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF BETWEEN THESE ISLANDS AND BETWEEN MITILINI AND

THE EVROS ESTUARY.

C. IN THE GREEK VIEW THE GREEK CONTINENTAL SHELF OF THESE AREAS IS DELIMITED BY THE MEDIAN LINE.

D. GREEKS DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED CO-EXPLOITATION IN AREA ON EITHER SIDE OF EVENTUAL DEMARKATION LINE.

2. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER SUB-PARA C MEANS THAT GREEKS ARE LOOKING TO SOME FORM OF NORTH-SOUTH DELIMITATION CONNECTING ISLANDS OR WHETHER THEY WOULD CONSIDER SOME OTHER ARRANGEMENT THAT MIGHT ALLOW TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF TO EXTEND OUT INTO THE AEGEAN BETWEEN THE ISLANDS. WHEN ASKED, COUNDOURIOTIS WAS NOT ABLE TO SUPPLY ANY CLARIFICATION.

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3. COUNDOURIOTIS STRESSED THROUGHOUT GREEK BELIEF THAT THE TURKISH DESIRE TO PROCEED STRAIGHT TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WAS A PRESSURE TACTIC TO WHICH GREEKS COULD NOT AGREE. IN THE GREEK VIEW, A FINAL SOLUTION MUST BE BASED ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PRECEDENT AND NOT BE RESULT OF BOWING TO TURKISH FORCE. IT WAS CLEAR THAT COUNDOURIOTIS EXPECTED NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WHO LIMITED THEMSELVES TO THANKING HIM FOR HIS PRESENTATION.
HARTMAN

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